

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

McHUGH, John M. (Republican)
Representative, 23rd District, New York
Elected 1992 to the 103d Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Watertown, New York - 29 September 1948

Home: Pierrepont Manor, New York

Marital status: Divorced

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Syracuse Univ, BA, 1970; State Univ of New York, Albany, MPA, 1977

Military: None

Profession: Public official; insurance broker

Political: Assistant to City Manager of Watertown, 1970-75; chief of research and liaison with local governments for State Sen H. Douglas Barclay, 1975-84; NY Senate, 1985-1992. Defeated Margaret Ravenscroft (D) with 61% of the vote for the seat of Rep David O'B. Martin, who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 74% of the vote and in 2002 ran unopposed. Represented the 24th district in the 107th Congress; represents the 23rd district in the 108th due to redistricting.

Rep McHugh is a conservative, described as articulate, intelligent, an excellent debater, and a little aloof. Military downsizing is a major issue in his district where the former Plattsburgh AFB and Fort Drum (Army light infantry division) are located. Griffiss AFB is just outside his district.

In the 106th Congress, explained that H.R. 2904 accomplishes two objectives that are critically important to ensuring honesty in government and impartiality in the executive branch of government. It reauthorizes the Office of Government ethics through 2003 and amends 18 USC to clarify the definition of "special government employee." Issued a statement following the signing into law of S. 1059, FY00 DoD Authorization, focusing on the improvements in quality of life for military personnel provided in the bill. Said that while this bill will ease some of the burdens, he was not satisfied. "Congress must continue to find new and improved ways to better the lives of our troops." Said it didn't seem possible to create an integrated commissary and exchange system run by the private sector that would serve all the troops consistently and fairly. Worked to speed construction of the World War II Memorial. Worked to include \$23M for a Consolidated Soldier Support Center for Fort Drum in his district. Also wrote a provision in the DoD Auth bill that would enable the town of Ohio (in Herkimer County) to acquire the Forrestport Test Annex property for public benefit and economic development initiatives. This site was formerly a part of the Research Laboratory in Rome, NY and will soon be declared excess federal property.

In the 107th Congress, supported the concurrent receipt provision in the DOD Auth bill (HR 4546), but not if it resulted in a veto of the bill. Included provisions in the bill to protect Ft Drum from closure, as well as \$18.3 million in base enhancement projects. Supported allowing base commander the option of deciding if female servicemembers should wear an abaya (head-to-toe Muslim garment). Said it was an issue of protecting female soldiers. Did not believe Congress had the expertise to look into whether the service academies were failing to produce top officers. Said it was up to the services to inform Congress if there was a problem.

AF Bases: None. Former Plattsburgh AFB closed 30Sep95

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subc on Readiness; Total Force - chmn

GOVERNMENT REFORM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS